THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (ECL) is incurring losses from inception except for the years 1988-89, 1989-90, 1991-92 and 1995-96. Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (BCCL) is also incurring losses from inception except for the years 1989-90, 1993-94 and 1995-96. Central Coalfields Ltd. (CCL) incurred losses in the years 1977-78, 1978-79, 1985-86 to 1987-88 & 1994-95 to 2001-02.

(c) The accumulated losses of ECL, BCCL & CCL as on 31.3.2002 are given below:—

(Rs. in crores)

ECL	-4124.14
BCCL	-4820.85
CCL	-1102.76

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise in view of the answer given to part (d) of the question.

Cost of coal production in India

†103. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production of coal of Coal India Limited, a monopoly Public Sector Undertaking, is more than the cost of production at international level;

(b) if so, the average cost of production of coal at international level;

(c) the average cost of production of Coal India Ltd. in India;

(d) whether efforts have been made during previous years to bring coal production industry at par with international level; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The cost of production of coal would vary from country to country due to various factors including geological nature of deposits, wage structure and technological advancement. The average production cost of coal per tonne in Coal India Limited (India) and USA during the year 1999-2000 was approximately Rs. 540.08 and $16.63 (Rupees 796.91) respectively.

(d) and (e) The geomining conditions/mining operations in India is not comparable with those in other countries. However, the following efforts are being made by Coal India Limited for improvement of coal production in India:

(i) increased production of raw coal and productivity.

(ii) mechanisation of the mines in phased manner with deployment of higher capacity HEMM, surface miner, SDL/LHD, powered support longwall, continuous miner etc.

(iii) cost reduction strategy put in force to contain overall cost of production.

Strike by Singareni Coal Mines workers

104. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Singareni Coal Mines workers are on warpath and have served strike notice against privatisation; and

(b) if so, the action taken to apprise workers about their future and job protection besides creating confidence amongst Trade Unions?

THE MINISTER OF COAL (SHRI KARIYA MUNDA): (a) Trade Unions operating in Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) have formed a Joint Action Committee called 'Singareni Parirakshana Committee' which served a Strike Notice dated 6th January, 2003 proposing to organize indefinite strike in the Company on or after 20th January, 2003 over a charter of ten demands. The number one demand related to no privatisation and contractisation in SCCL.

(b) The management of SCCL has taken all steps to appraise the workmen by way of pamphlets, wall posters, advertisements, electronic